

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,347,136 to Horan ("*Horan*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,956,697 to Usui ("*Usui*").

Applicants have amended claims 1, 30, and 32. Claims 1-7 and 30-33 are pending.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-7 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The prior art cited by the Examiner, *Horan* and *Usui*, does not teach or suggest each and every element of claims 1-7 and 30-33. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has, therefore, not been established.

Claim 1 recites an electronic apparatus including, for example:

operation inputting means . . .
function executing means . . .
measuring means . . .
computing means for computing an amount of charge based on the execution time measured by said measuring means regarding each of said functions, wherein a time unit charge decreases as the execution time increases and the time unit charge becomes zero when the execution time reaches a predetermined time value; and
management means . . .

(emphasis added). *Horan* and *Usui*, even if combined as suggested by the Examiner, fail to teach or suggest every element of the claimed invention.

Horan discloses a caller identification method. Display/control logic 158 "includes control inputs (e.g. play, record, fast forward, rewind, pause, stop, keypad, arrows, etc.) for controlling answering machine functions, entering names and phone

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

numbers, setting preferences, etc.” (col. 3, lines 52-55). These inputs are not used in computing charge based on an “execution time” of each input. *Horan* is silent regarding any type of computing means. Therefore, *Horan* does not teach or suggest a computing means “wherein a time unit charge decreases as the execution time increases and the time unit charge becomes zero when the execution time reaches a predetermined time value,” as recited in claim 1.

Usui does not cure the deficiencies of *Horan*. *Usui* discloses a fee charging system for the internet. An authentication server “interlocks with a specific extended authentication data base to check access status to the Internet” (col. 2, lines 34-36). A fee charging server “is interlocked with the specific extended authentication data base which calculates the fee for access according to the length of the time each client is connected, and constantly renews the access status rate of each authentication data of a specific extended authentication data base” (col. 2, lines 38-43).

Applicants find no teaching or suggestion in *Usui* of the claimed correlation between the “time unit charge” and the “execution time.” Therefore, *Usui* also does not teach or suggest a computing means “wherein a time unit charge decreases as the execution time increases and the time unit charge becomes zero when the execution time reaches a predetermined time value,” as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, *Horan* and *Usui* fail to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 1. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are thus also allowable over *Horan* in view of *Usui*, for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Independent claims 30 and 32 and dependent claims 31 and 33, although of different scope than claim 1, are allowable over *Horan* and *Usui* for at least the same reasons discussed above in regard to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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